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Item 45 of the provisional agenda*
Culture of peace

Letter dated 10 August 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Interfaith Dialogue, which was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 21 and 22 July 2005, concluded with the Bali Declaration on Building Interfaith Harmony Within the International Community (see annex). As co-hosts of the said conference, Indonesia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have the honour to request the issuance of the attached conference outcome as a United Nations document under item 45 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Rezlan Ishar **Jenie**
Permanent Representative of Indonesia

(*Signed*) Sir Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

* A/60/150.

05-46817 (E) 260805

Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

BALI DECLARATION ON BUILDING INTERFAITH HARMONY WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

We, the representatives of ASEM members, reflecting various cultural, religious and faith heritages, who gathered here at the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in Bali, Indonesia, on 21-22 July 2005;

Expressing sympathy to the victims of the attacks in London on 7 July 2005 and to the victims of earlier such attacks, notably that in Bali on 17 October 2002;

Bearing in mind our determination to fulfill our responsibility to contribute to global efforts in promoting culture of peace and a total rejection of using violence in the name of religion not only within our communities but also the peoples of the world;

Reaffirming the importance of all peoples to hold, develop and preserve their faiths and religions within safeguarded religious freedom in a national and international atmosphere of peace, of tolerance as well as of mutual understanding and respect;

Recognizing the wisdom of the various existing faiths and religions in the efforts of maintaining peace and stability within the international community and people;

Acknowledging the valuable contributions of various initiatives at the national, regional and international level, such as the United Nations Initiatives on the Alliance of Civilization and Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation to promote the culture of peace;

Having thoroughly examined and discussed the common values of the various faiths and religions as well as barriers to building interfaith harmony within the international community and people;

Declare our profound conviction that:

1. **The various faiths and religions existing in the ASEM member countries are advocating peace, compassion, and tolerance among mankind;**

2. **The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedom including the right of individual to choose religion or faith can contribute to upholding respect for the diversity of faiths and religions which is essential in combating ideologies based on extremism, intolerance, hatred, and the use of violence;**

3. **It is more important than ever for people of different religions and faiths to stand united and make it clear that they will not allow use of violence to divide them. We must all speak up against those who use religion to rationalize terrorism and murder;**

4. **Peace, justice, compassion, and tolerance need to be cultivated and nurtured to help create an environment conducive to building harmony within the international community and people;**

We, therefore, resolve to:

a. **Continuously bring the importance of promoting interfaith dialogue to the attention of our Governments and communities;**

b. **Translate the shared values of peace, compassion, and tolerance into practical actions within our communities by:**

i. **In the field of Education**

- **Encouraging Governments of ASEM to incorporate interfaith studies in curricula at the post-elementary level to promote understanding and respect for the various faiths and religions, giving due consideration to the specific circumstances of the respective countries;**

- **Encouraging research through seminars/workshops and other activities to define educational curricula that promote and strengthen interfaith dialogue;**

- **Strengthening cooperation on enhancing the capacity of human resources, among others, through exchanges of students, teachers and youth;**

- **Educating society to accept and deal with diversity and to prevent the emergence of extremism and prejudice through activities at the grassroots, national and regional levels;**

- **Preventing the marginalization of religion-based education institutions by integrating them into national education systems and goals;**

- **Publicizing the proceedings of the ASEM Bali Interfaith Dialogue as widely as possible and in particular, in the ASEM Infoboard and other relevant educational websites;**

- Encouraging ASEM to promote cooperation with appropriate international organizations in the field of education.

ii. In the field of Culture

- Acknowledging the linkages between religions and cultures, and promoting shared values that will strengthen harmony and understanding in society;

- Promoting exchanges to develop better understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures, religions and faiths at all levels in Asia and Europe;

- Promoting cross cultural awareness and understanding at all levels of society particularly among the young;

iii. In the field of Media

- Strengthening and encouraging freedom of expression as the cornerstone of the participation of the media in promoting interfaith harmony.

- Ensuring the upholding of ethics in journalism in reporting interfaith issues as well as conscious distinction between news reports and commentaries.

- Upholding media professionalism and social responsibility by overcoming tendencies towards negativism and avoiding news labeling which lead to stereotyping religion and believers.

- Encouraging religious/community groups to be more proactive in engaging the media to promote balanced coverage as a means of fostering greater understanding of religions and cultures.

- Urging the media to provide more time and space to cover issues and developments relating to intra-faith and interfaith dialogue and cooperation in order to promote participation, in particular at the grassroots level, and to create a platforms for intra-faith and interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

- **Promoting exchange programs and scholarships to create networks among media personnel in Asia and Europe to exchange best practice and generate a greater pool of resources by involving media organizations, religious communities as well as governments.**

iv. **In the field of Religion and Society**

- **Defining and promoting common values such as the respect for human rights and the protection of environment;**
- **Combating corruption in all its forms;**
- **Encouraging and supporting the establishment of mechanisms within respective religious communities to strengthen ethical behavior and commonly shared moral values;**
- **Making use of the already existing interfaith organizations and institutions;**
- **Acknowledging and respecting the differences within and among the religions and faiths;**
- **Strengthening the education of faith, both within the own religion and the others in order to enable interfaith dialogue;**
- **Facilitating social convergence;**
- **Promoting gender equality and recognizing the role of women in peace-building and interfaith dialogue;**
- **Safeguarding religious rights and freedom through legislation;**
- **Accepting the role of religions and faiths as societal partners;**
- **Assisting each other (Religion/Societies) in their common tasks.**

We welcome the Indonesian initiative to establish an International Center for Religious and Cultural Cooperation (the Jogja Center) and encourage this and other similar initiative in other countries.

We congratulate the Government of Indonesia for initiating this Interfaith Dialogue and the excellent arrangement of this important event. We are especially honored by the presence of the President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, giving grace to our deliberation. We thank the Government of the United Kingdom for co-hosting this Dialogue. We also express our appreciation to all the co-sponsors which have made this Dialogue possible, namely: Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, Greece, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain, and Thailand, as well as the valuable contribution made by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). We welcome the offer of Cyprus to host the second ASEM Interfaith Dialogue in 2006.

Bali, Indonesia, 22 July 2005

United Nations A/60/255

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Sixtieth session
Item 116 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 12 August 2005 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letters recently addressed to you by Chad and a very few other countries (A/60/192, A/60/193), I have been instructed to solemnly state China's position, as follows:

1. The above-mentioned countries, in brazen violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in defiance of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), have once again requested the issue of the so-called "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" to be considered at the coming session of the General Assembly. They have also requested the consideration of the so-called "proactive role for the United Nations in maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait". The Chinese Government and people strongly condemn and firmly oppose such a gross encroachment on China's internal affairs.

2. Taiwan is a part of China's territory and has never been a country. There is only one China in the world, and China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division. Though reunification is yet to be realized between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, the fact that both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China has never been changed, and this is the status quo of cross-Strait relations. This is an objective reality that nobody can change or deny. To date, more than 160 countries have established diplomatic relations with China. They all recognize the one-China principle and that Taiwan is a part of China. This is also the principle that the United Nations has consistently adhered to.

3. In 1971, at its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted by an overwhelming majority the historic resolution 2758 (XXVI), which stipulated unequivocally that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Thus was the issue of China's representation in the United Nations solved once and for all. Since Taiwan is a region of China, China's representation in the United Nations naturally includes Taiwan. There is simply no such issue as the so-called "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations". Any attempt to distort or even deny resolution 2758 (XXVI) is futile.

* A/60/150.

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4. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. As a part of China, Taiwan is not eligible to participate, under whatever name, in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The General Committee of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993 has flatly rejected the inclusion of the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly. This has fully demonstrated the determination of the vast number of Member States to safeguard the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 2758 (XXVI). It also shows that the Taiwan authorities will never receive international support in their attempt to split China by raising the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations".

5. The question of Taiwan is a purely internal matter of China. The position of the Chinese Government on the question of Taiwan is firm and clear. We have consistently adhered to the fundamental principle of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" and the "Eight-point Proposal on the Development of Cross-Strait Relations and the Promotion of the Peaceful Reunification of the Motherland". On 4 March 2005, President Hu Jintao set forth four-point guidelines on cross-Strait relations under the new circumstances, which have been warmly acclaimed by the compatriots on both sides of the Strait and received wide attention in the world. Adherence to the one-China principle is the cornerstone for developing cross-Strait relations and realizing peaceful reunification. We have always advocated cross-Strait dialogues and negotiations on the basis of the one-China principle.

Not long ago, Lien Chan, Chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang Party, James Soong, Chairman of the People First Party, and Yu Mu-ming, Chairman of the New Party, paid successful visits to the mainland, at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and its General Secretary, Hu Jintao. General Secretary Hu held formal talks with each of them, during which the two sides had a sincere, frank and in-depth exchange of views on major issues relating to cross-Strait relations and inter-party ties. These visits help move cross-Strait relations towards peace and stability, serve the common interests of people on both sides of the Strait and conform to the aspiration of Taiwan compatriots for peace, stability and development, receiving broad support from people on both sides of the Strait and winning full recognition by the international community.

6. It must be pointed out that in recent years, significant and complex changes have taken place on the island of Taiwan, where the "Taiwan independence" secessionists have intensified their secessionist activities, having serious impacts on the peaceful and stable development of cross-Strait relations. This has increasingly become the biggest obstacle to the growth of cross-Strait relations, as well as the biggest immediate threat to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. For the purpose of opposing and checking Taiwan's secession from China by secessionists in the name of "Taiwan independence", promoting peaceful national reunification, maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, preserving China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and safeguarding the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation, the National People's Congress of China adopted the Anti-Secession Law on 14 March this year.

This legislation, while identifying the nature of the Taiwan question, codifies the Chinese Government's basic guidelines on the Taiwan question as well as the relevant major policies and important propositions it has implemented or advanced

over the years. The law also harmonizes the principles and guidelines on the settlement of the Taiwan question in an integrated fashion and embodies our position that, on the premise of one China, any topic can be discussed between the two sides across the Strait. The provisions in the law have given full expression to our consistent position and proposition for the prospect of peaceful reunification with utmost efforts and maximum sincerity, and at the same time have demonstrated the common will of the entire Chinese people to safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Anti-Secession Law is a domestic law of China and a defensive measure for safeguarding State sovereignty and territorial integrity and for bringing about the prospect of peaceful reunification. In view of the immense destructiveness of the secessionist activities in the name of "Taiwan independence" to cross-Strait relations and the severe threat they pose to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the Asia-Pacific region at large, the Anti-Secession Law provides for taking non-peaceful means to stop Taiwan's secession from China by the "Taiwan independence" forces. It must be pointed out here that we are willing to strive for peaceful reunification with maximum sincerity and utmost efforts. Nevertheless, no sovereign State can tolerate secession. Non-peaceful means to stop Taiwan's secession from China by the "Taiwan independence" forces will be used only as a last resort, only when our efforts for a peaceful reunification prove completely futile. Therefore, the Anti-Secession Law is of great importance for opposing and checking the reckless secessionist activities in the name of "Taiwan independence", and for maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Taiwan Strait and the Asia-Pacific region.

It is the "Taiwan independence" secessionist activities perpetrated by the Taiwan authorities that are the real source of tension in the Taiwan Strait. The Taiwan authorities must abandon their secessionist position and stop all secessionist activities in the name of "Taiwan independence" so that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait can be maintained. To safeguard State sovereignty and territorial integrity and realize complete national reunification at an early date is the common aspiration and strong will of the 1.3 billion Chinese people, including our Taiwan compatriots. Nobody nor any force can change or stop it.

Respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in a country's internal affairs are important principles of the Charter of the United Nations, cherished by all countries in the world. China has strictly followed those principles in its relations with other countries. China has never done anything harmful to the interests of the above-mentioned co-sponsor countries, but what those countries have been doing regarding the question of Taiwan under the instigation of the Taiwan authorities has undermined the national interests of China and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people. It has also gravely obstructed the work of the General Assembly. We strongly urge those countries to change their positions, strictly abide by the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 2758 (XXVI) and identify themselves with the great number of Member States on the Taiwan question. We highly appreciate the right position adopted by the United Nations and the vast number of Member States in abiding by the one-China principle. We have every reason to believe that in our just cause of safeguarding State sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Chinese Government and people will continue to receive their understanding and support.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly under item 116 of its provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic
of China to the United Nations

United Nations A/60/256

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Sixtieth session
Item 32 of the provisional agenda*
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

On 24 May 2005, the Secretary-General sent notes verbales to Israel and all other Member States, drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of resolutions 59/117 to 59/120, and requesting information by 15 June 2005 concerning any action taken or envisaged in relation to their implementation. Replies dated 12 July 2005 and 14 July 2005 were received from Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, covering various aspects of resolutions 59/117 to 59/120. The full texts of the replies are reproduced in the report. No information has been received from other Member States regarding the relevant provisions of the resolutions.

* A/60/150.

05-46221 (E) 070905

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 59/120 of 10 December 2004 on Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues.

2. On 24 May 2005, the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations to resolutions 59/117 to 59/120 of 10 December 2004, with the request that the Permanent Representative of Israel inform him by 15 June 2005 of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions.

3. On 24 May 2005, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all other Member States, drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of resolutions 59/117 to 59/120, and requesting information by 15 June 2005 on any actions taken or envisaged in relation to their implementation.

4. A reply dated 12 July 2005 was received from Israel, covering various aspects of resolutions 59/117 to 59/120, and reading as follows:

> From the outset, Israel would like to note that these resolutions come against the backdrop of positive developments in the region, including the impending unilateral disengagement of Israel from the Gaza Strip. It is disappointing to see that these resolutions do not take into account these new developments. Furthermore, they do not reflect the spirit of reform now prevalent in the United Nations General Assembly. Israel would like to have seen the language of these resolutions reflect more comprehensively the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and offer more productive steps.
>
> It is the desire of the State of Israel to bring an end to all acts of violence and terror in the region, improve the humanitarian situation, and achieve a negotiated settlement in the context of the Road Map. Towards that goal, Israel is taking a number of steps to promote peace and reinvigorate the peace process.
>
> As Israel has previously stated, we support the humanitarian mission of UNRWA and recognize its important contribution to the welfare of the Palestinian refugees. Israel believes that UNRWA could be an important vehicle to promote peace and stability in the region. We remain concerned and dismayed, however, at a number of issues related to the misuse and politicization of UNRWA and the disregard to the campaign of terror waged against Israeli civilians by Palestinian terror organizations.
>
> In order for UNRWA to remain an effective humanitarian organization, it must be free of any action or statement that exceeds the borders of its mandate. The extensive Palestinian terrorist infrastructure that has taken root in the Palestinian "refugee camps" severely jeopardizes the legitimacy and efficacy of UNRWA. While Israel fully understands that UNRWA does not have the means or authority to enforce security and public order, we urge UNRWA to draw attention to the misuse of "camps" by terrorist groups in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions and international law. The presence of terrorist groups within UNRWA establishments both poses a clear danger to the safety and security of the civilian population and also compromises the fulfilment of UNRWA's mission.
>
> The State of Israel firmly holds that any resolution adopted regarding UNRWA must deal with its operations, and be free of extraneous political

issues introduced to single out one country, to prejudice decisions meant for permanent status negations, or to promote the interests of one side of the conflict.

The State of Israel is in favour of consolidating UNRWA resolutions and removing any extraneous political language. This is consistent with the general efforts aimed at the reform and revitalization of the General Assembly's agenda.

Israel looks forward to continuing its cooperation and working relationship with UNRWA. Accordingly, Israel urges the Secretary-General and UNRWA to consider, together with the parties involved, ways in which the organization can enhance the fulfilment of UNRWA's mandate in an accountable and responsible manner in the best interests of those whom it has been charged to serve.

5. A reply dated 14 July 2005 was received from the Syrian Arab Republic, covering various aspects of resolutions 59/117 to 59/120, and reading as follows:

The Syrian Arab Republic voted for resolutions 59/117, 59/118, 59/119 and 59/120. It reaffirms the necessity of solving the problem of the Palestine refugees in accordance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, including Security Council resolution 73 (1949) of 11 August 1949, which called for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 which provided, in paragraph 11, that the refugees should be permitted to return to their homes and should be compensated for the loss of or damage to their property.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic repudiates the continuing attempts of the Israeli Government to undermine the right of the Palestine refugees to return and strongly condemns Israel's persistence in the policies of killing, destruction and closure, and the building of the separation wall which is an aggression against the officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and its installations. These policies have exacerbated the sufferings of the Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory, making their lives unbearable, all of which is incompatible with the resolutions of international legitimacy and international law.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has extended every form of direct assistance and support to the approximately 500,000 Palestine refugees whom it has accommodated in its territory since Israel occupied the Palestinian territories in 1948. It also provides facilities and assistance to UNRWA, thus ensuring that it can scrupulously fulfil its mandate. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms in this connection that it will continue to give support and assistance to UNRWA, thereby ensuring the continuation of the Agency's operations and services until the occupation is ended and the Palestine refugees return to their homes.

Syria affirms the right of all those who have been displaced as a result of the killings that began in June 1967, and have continued since, to return to their homes or previous places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. It also affirms the right of the Palestine refugees to their property

and to the income from it in accordance with the principles of equity and justice and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic expresses its grave concern at the situation of the Palestine refugees living outside the territories from which they have been expelled, and particularly in connection with their security, welfare and living conditions, and calls on the international community to address the problem of the Palestine refugees in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations, which have specified the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to return to their homes. Syria affirms that any settlement that ignores those rights will not lead to a just and comprehensive solution of the conflict in the Middle East and will not bring about security and stability in the region.

6. No information has been received from other Member States with regard to steps taken concerning resolutions 59/117 to 59/120.